

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Serial No. ....09/773,456  
Filing Date ..... January 31, 2001  
Confirmation No. .... 7082  
Inventorship ..... Novak et al.  
Applicant ..... Microsoft Corp.  
Group Art Unit ..... 2179  
Examiner ..... Tran  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-728US  
Title: "Methods and Systems for Creating Skins"

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

I am an inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "Methods and Systems for Creating Skins", as identified above.

The invention was conceived in the United States prior to April 7, 2000, the effective date of the U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0099713 A1 to Fernandez et al., (hereinafter "Fernandez").

Attached to this declaration are excerpts from an invention disclosure document that was prepared and describes the subject matter of the above-identified patent application. The invention disclosure indicates that the subject matter covered in the application was disclosed to various OEM's prior to the April 7, 2000 effective date of Fernandez.

Additionally, the invention disclosure document indicates that the subject matter of the present application was released in Windows Media Play 7 on 7/16/2000 - three months after Fernandez' effective date.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that

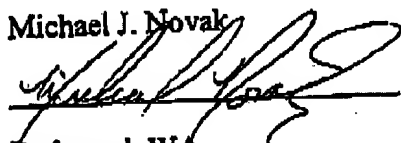
these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therefrom.

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